



State of Washington
Department of Fish and Wildlife

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To Interested Parties:

The enclosed packet includes: Two summary sheets of regulations governing the 2010 Willapa Bay and Grays Harbor commercial fishing seasons, maps of each harbor with commercial boundary lines, a summary describing the live-box dimensions, a flyer for the white sturgeon regulations and a summary sheet for Quick Reporting.

Final regulations have been adopted and will be published under Washington Administrative Code (WAC) prior to the 2010 Fall Commercial Salmon management period. Items of special note are identified below.

Willapa Bay Fall Fishery – One of the primary changes to this year's fishery is that live boxes are **required** for the release of wild (unmarked) coho and/or wild (unmarked) Chinook. The other significant change is the addition of a **Closed Waters Area** (Net Free Zone) for the 2 days scheduled in August and the first 3 days scheduled in September. **Gillnets are NOT allowed within this Closed Waters Area during that time.**

The release of ALL wild (unmarked) coho, non-legal sturgeon, and ALL steelhead is **required** for the entire fishing season. The release of ALL wild (unmarked) Chinook is **required** during August and September only. Mesh size varies depending on date and soak time is limited to 45 minutes.

It is also **required** that all operators of commercial salmon vessels in Willapa Bay complete a "Fish Friendly" workshop and be in possession of a WDFW-issued certification card to participate in salmon opening in Areas 2G, 2H, 2J, 2K and 2M this year. There will be a workshop provided by WDFW on July 21st at 10 am and 6 pm in Montesano for those individuals who have not already taken this class. Operators, who do not currently hold a "Fish Friendly" certification card, need to contact Barbara McClellan at (360) 249-4628 at the Region 6 Montesano office to sign up for one of the scheduled classes. If you are unable to make either of these scheduled times, please contact Barbara McClellan to make other arrangements.

This year the Willapa Bay commercial gillnet fishery has 2-24 hr days in August. The first day of the September fishing time begins September 12th. Beginning September 22nd, the eastern deadline restriction at Willapa Channel Marker 40 in Area 2H will be removed. Mesh size allowed in August is 6-inch minimum mesh to 9-inch maximum mesh. September 12th through September 22nd, the mesh size allowed is 6-inch maximum mesh. Beginning 6:01 pm September 22nd through October, the mesh size allowed is 6 ½ inch maximum mesh and in November, the mesh size allowed is 9-inches minimum mesh.

SEE SUMMARY SHEET FOR DESCRIPTION OF THE CLOSED WATER AREA BOUNDARY LINES, GPS POINTS OF THOSE BOUNDARY LINES, AND DETAILS OF THE FISHERY.

Grays Harbor Fall Fishery – In Area 2C, ALL wild (unmarked) coho, non-legal sturgeon, chum, and ALL steelhead must be released. The maximum mesh size allowed is 9-inches. Live boxes are **required** for wild (unmarked) coho release and soak time is limited to 45 minutes. Notice of Intent to fish is required to the Quick

Reporting phone, fax, or email prior to 12 pm August 20th, 2010. There are a total of 8 fishing days scheduled in Area 2C.

In Areas 2A/2D, ALL wild (unmarked) Chinook, non-legal sturgeon, chum, and ALL steelhead must be released. The maximum mesh size allowed is 6-inches, no more than 55 meshes deep. Live boxes are **required** for wild (unmarked) Chinook release and soak time is limited to 45 minutes. Notice of Intent to fish is required to the Quick Reporting phone, fax, or email prior to 12 pm October 1st, 2010. There are 2-12 hr fishing days scheduled in Area 2A & 2D.

Fishers must carry an on-board observer, if requested by WA Dept of Fish and Wildlife.

You may access our website online if you are interested in viewing the fishery details or our Washington Administrative Code (WAC, permanent laws) for either of these fisheries at:

http://wdfw.wa.gov/fish/regs/commregs/netting_sked.htm

A new method of measuring white sturgeon is **required** statewide as of January 1, 2009. This new method measures FORK LENGTH, from the tip of the nose to the fork of the tail with the fish on its side. The new legal fork length size limit is 43 – 54 inches. Fork length is easier to measure both for the angler and for enforcement and will reduce handling time of the fish.

The NOAA Fisheries listed the southern population of green sturgeon as threatened under the Endangered Species Act effective July 6, 2006. Most green sturgeon taken in Washington fisheries are from the Columbia River stock, which is part of the southern population. Therefore, **the retention of green sturgeon is prohibited to protect this federally listed stock.**

Wholesale dealers and fishers retailing their fish should note that “Quick Reporting” of catches is **required** for all salmon and sturgeon landed; this includes all “take home”. All purchases are required to be reported to WDFW by 10:00 A.M. of the day following the commercial landing. **The Quick Reporting requirement does not preclude the obligation of buyers to report catches on fish tickets.**

Reports can be made by:

- fax (360) 249-1229
- telephone 1-866-791-1280
- email to harborfishtickets@dfw.wa.gov

The Quick Reporting summary must include: the dealer’s name, purchasing location, date of purchase, list of fish ticket numbers used on the purchasing date (including **alpha letter** preceding the fish ticket number), commercial fishing gear type, catch area, species, number and total weight of fish. Please note that a copy of the “Statewide Quick Reporting Summary Sheet” has been included for your convenience or you can go to our website and download a copy at: http://wdfw.wa.gov/fish/commercial/quickreport_form.xls

You are advised to call the Department of Fish and Wildlife hotline at (360) 902-2500 or (360) 249-4628 before going fishing to verify fishery schedules and regulations. For additional information or questions, please contact Barbara McClellan or Charmane Ashbrook at (360) 249-4628 the Region 6 Montesano office.

Atlantic Salmon

Wholesale dealers and fishers are asked to contact the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife should Atlantic salmon be taken during any fishery in Washington waters. Please notify the appropriate WDFW staff member of when and where the fish was encountered or contact Fish Program in Olympia at (360) 902-2700.

